

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-12

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
INFO CINCPAC
COGARD
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GOVGUAM

UNCLAS STATE 310195

ATTN PARIS FOR MARK PRATT

E.O. 11652: N/A

TA OPN, XC, US

SUBJECT: DECEMBER 30 EA PRESS SUMMARY
CINCPAC ALSO FOR ASST SECRETARY HOLBROOKE ONLY
1. KOREA

US/ROK CLOSE TO AGREEMENT ON TESTIMONY/TRAVEL TO US OF
TONGSUN PARK, ACCORDING DOJ OFFICIAL. AGREEMENT REPORTED
TO GRANT PARK IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION IN EXCHANGE FOR
USEFUL TESTIMONY IN SEOUL/US CONCERNING INFLUENCE BUYING
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SCANDAL. AGREEMENT ALLEGED TO MAKE NO PROVISION FOR
CONGRESSIONAL APPEARANCE, COOPERATION OF PARK (NYT; UPI,
NYDN; AP, SUN, PHINQ; WSJ). REPORTS FROM SEOUL SAY THAT
AGREEMENT ALREADY REACHED (CSM). DELAY IN ANNOUNCEMENT
DUE TO US DIFFICULTIES OVER "PROCEDURAL PROBLEM" ACCORDING
SK FONMIN SOURCES/STATEMENT FROM AMEMB SEOUL (REUTER
SEOUL).

HALLORAN (NYT) SAYS CIA REPORTS SEEN BY HOUSE SUBCMTE ON
INTL OPER SHOW PRES PARK PRESIDED OVER SERIES OF MEETINGS IN

SUMMER/FALL '70 TO MAP OUT COMPREHENSIVE PLANS FOR SK
EFFORTS TO EXERT BROAD INFLUENCE IN US. MEETINGS IN '71
HELD TO DISCUSS FUND RAISING FOR EFFORTS.

2. CAMBODIA

SWEDISH AMBASSADOR TO PEKING WILL START 2-WK VISIT
CAMBODIA 1/7. ANNOUNCEMENT FOLLOWS VISIT TO CAMBODIA BY
SWEDEN'S AMB TO THAILAND WHO QUESTIONED VALIDITY REFUGEES'
REPORTS OF ATROCITIES IN CAMBODIA (WP).

3. ASEAN

ASEAN COUNCIL ON PETRO VOTED AT RECENT ANNUAL MEET IN
MANILA TO DEVELOP COMMON POLICY FOR EXPLOITATION OF
OFFSHORE PETRO RESOURCES/ESTABLISH REGIONAL LIQUIFIED GAS
PROJECT/EXCHANGE INFORMATION ON PRICING/ESTABLISH UNIFORM
FUEL SPECIFICATIONS (JOC KL 12/29).

4. SINGAPORE

IN SPEECH AT UNIV SINGAPORE, PM LEE KUAN YEW SAID
SINGAPORE CANNOT EMBARK ON NATIONALIZATION FOR INVEST
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W/IN NEXT 20 YRS W/O DOING IRREPARABLE DAMAGE TO ITS
ECON (JOC SINGAPORE).

5. AUSTRALIA

AUSTRALIAN MEAT/LIVESTOCK CORP HAS RELEASED 250,000 METRIC
TONS BEEF FOR EXPORT TO US IN '78, EXPECTED RELEASE 50,000
MORE WHEN US RESTRAINT LEVEL KNOWN (JOC).

6. THAILAND

USDA ANNOUNCES THAI 77-78 RICE PRODUCTION EXPECTED TOTAL
ABOUT 15 MILLION METRIC TONS, DOWN FROM RECORD 76-77
LEVEL 15.8 MILLION METRIC TONS. REDUCTION DUE MAINLY TO
NE SECTION WHERE DROUGHT HELD PRODUCTION TO SELF-
SUFFICIENCY LEVEL (CNS, JOC).

7. CHINA

REUTER (PEKING) QUOTES NCNA STATEMENT THAT WESTERN NATIONS
ONLY HURT SELVES IN ECON COOP W/USSR. NCNA SAYS SOVIET MIL
EXPENDITURES MADE POSSIBLE ONLY BY WESTERN LOANS/EQUIPMENT/
TECHNOLOGY. CALLS WISHFUL THINKING NOTION SUCH COOP ACTS
AS RESTRAINING FORCE (LAT 12/28).

REUTER REPORTS WH ANNOUNCEMENT THAT US/TAIWAN HAVE SIGNED
AGREEMENT LIMITING IMPORT OF TAIWANESE SHOES INTO US.

SOURCES SAY SIMILAR AGREEMENT W/ROK EXPECTED SHORTLY (LAT 12/28).

L MATHEWS (LAT) SAYS HK RESIDENTS RECEIVED UNUSUAL XMAS PRESENT OVER LONG WKEND: RUNNING WATER ALL DAY LONG. HK HAS NOT ENJOYED 24 HR CONTINUOUS WATER SUPPLY SINCE MAY DUE DEPLETION OF RESEVOIRS BY LONG SPRING DROUGHT (12/27).

DOCTORS IN PRC CLAIM SUCCESSFUL TREATMENT OF SHANGHAI UNCLASSIFIED

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WOMAN WHO SUFFERED 3RD DEGREE BURNS OVER 94 PCT OF BODY USING STANDARD GRAFTING TECHNIQUES. ACCORDING REUTER (PEKING) ACHIEVEMENT EXTREMELY UNUSUAL; WESTERN MED USUALLY UNABLE TO HELP WHEN SUCH BURNS OVER 80 PCT OF BODY.

8. JAPAN

FUKUDA CABINET APPROVES '78 DEFENSE BUDGET OF 7.9 BIL DOLS. EMPHASIS ON IMPROVING AIR/NAVAL DEFENSE. FIGURE UP 12.4 PCT FROM CURRENT YR'S TOTAL (REUTER TOKYO). JOC'S CULLISON DESCRIBES TOTAL '78 BUDGET FIGURE OF 204.9 BIL DOLS APPROVED BY CABINET HIGHLY REFLATIONARY. DESCRIBES OUTLAYS AS DEFINITE ATTEMPT BY GOJ CREATE STRONG DOMESTIC DEMAND THRU HEAVY DOMESTIC PUBLIC FINANCING.

US TREASURY TO BEGIN ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION OF IMPORT JAPANESE PNEUMATIC MARINE FENDERS (WSJ).

REUTER'S KERR REPORTS FROM YOSHIOKA THAT JAPAN'S 33 MI SEIKAN TUNNEL, TO LINK HONSHU AND HOKKAIDO, 3 YRS BEHIND SCHEDULE/600 MILLION DOLS OVER BUDGET. OPENING PROBABLY NOT BEFORE '82.

9. VIETNAM

IN NYT SPEC, KAMM SAYS SRV, INCREASINGLY CONCERNED ABOUT ESCAPE ATTEMPTS, HAS LAUNCHED OPEN CAMPAIGN OF INTIMIDATION, AT RISK OF PUBLICIZING EMBARRASSING FACT THAT MANY OF ITS CITIS PREPARED TO RISK DEATH TO FLEE FROM COMMUNIST REGIME. ACCORDING REFUGEES WHO ARRIVED LAEM SING 12/23, IN LAST 6 WKS WALL POSTERS ANNOUNCING STERN PENALTIES FOR ATTEMPTS ESCAPE HAVE APPEARED/SOUND TRUCKS, LOUDSPEAKERS BROADCAST SAME WARNINGS SEVERAL TIME/DAY. REPORTED POSTERS UNCLASSIFIED

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STATED THOSE SEEKING ESCAPE WERE TRAITORS TO REVOLUTION, WOULD BE SEVERELY PUNISHED (3-5 YRS PRISON OR 5-15 YRS/ DEATH FOR BOAT OWNERS ORGANIZING ESCAPES). REFUGEES SAID THEY ENCOUNTERED MANY MORE PATROL BOATS DURING ESCAPE

THAN THEY HAD USUALLY ON FISHING TRIPS. OTHERS SAID SURVEILLANCE POPULATION HAS GREATLY INCREASED DIFFICULTY ORGANIZING ESCAPE ATTEMPTS.

KAMM SAYS REFUGEES ALSO BROUGHT 1ST NEWS OF MASS ESCAPE ATTEMPT LAST YR BY MORE THAN 400 ABOARD LARGE FISHING BOATS DEPARTING PHU QUOC. ACCORDING REFUGEES, AUTHORITIES TIPPED OFF BY INFORMANT, TOOK THEM TO PRISON CAMPS WHERE THEY WORKED IN FIELDS/CLEARED JUNGLES FOR 2 MOS. LATER TAKEN TO U MINH FOREST TO CLEAR SWAMPS. AFTER 6 MOS TAKEN PHU QUOC TO CLEAR LAND FOR HOUSING SINCE ALL PROPERTY/ POSSESSIONS CONFISCATED. SAID SURVEILLANCE/HARASSMENT CONTINUED SO MANY ATTEMPTED ESCAPE AGAIN (ALSO SUN 12/29).

SRV ANNOUNCES CRASH PROGRAM STEP UP FARM PRODUCTION TO INCREASE EXPORTS/AVOID FOOD SHORTAGES (CSM).

VP LE TRANH NGHI CONCEDED 12/27 THAT SRV HAS MISUSED ITS LABOR FORCE, SAID EXTRA 780,000 PEOPLE WILL BE PUT TO WORK IN '78 TO REPAIR FALTERING ECON/SPEED UP PRODUCTION. IN REPORT TO VIET NATL ASSEMBLY, BROADCAST ON RADIO HANOI, HE SAID BIGGEST INCREASE IN WORK FORCE WILL BE IN AGRIC FIELD (UPI HK, LAT 12/28).

10. INDOCHINA REFUGEES

WP'S MOSKOWITZ (12/29) DOES FEATURE ON 1ST VIET COMMUNITY CENTER IN WASHINGTON AREA WHERE 10,000 AREA REFUGEES CAN "MEET EACH OTHER," "HELP EACH OTHER," "KEEP UP" VIET CULTURE. SERVICES PLANNED FOR FUTURE INCL LENDING LIBRARY VIET BOOKS, RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS, TRANSLATION SERVICES, TAX FORM PREPARATION, FOOD SHOP, CLASSES, UNCLASSIFIED

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EXHIBITS, SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

11. PHILIPPINES

EARTHQUAKE W/ITS EPICENTER IN PACIFIC OCEAN, SHOOK SE PHILS THURS, REGISTERING 4 POINTS ON ROSSI FOREL SCALE (REUTER MANILA 12/29).

COMMENT AND ANALYSIS

12. THAILAND

ACCORDING REUTER'S ROGERS (BANGKOK 12/29), THAILAND'S ECON FACES DIFFICULT '78. SAYS SOME MAJOR CROPS WILL FALL SHORT OF TARGETS (DUE TO DROUGHT), TRADE DEFICIT IS EXPECTED TO GROW, RTG'S PREOCCUPATION W/CONSTITUTIONAL/ SECURITY ISSUES INDICATES COUNTRY WILL CONTINUE LACK CONSISTENT TOP-LEVEL GUIDANCE FOR ECON RECOVERY. QUOTES

DEP PREMIER SUNTHORN THAT "OVERALL ECONOMIC SITUATION OF THAILAND HAS GREATLY DETERIORATED THIS YR." SAYS ANNOUNCEMENT CORRECTIVE MEASURES INCLUDE "FEW DETAILED PRACTICAL STEPS."

13. CHINA

WP'S MATHEWS (HK) SAYS MOST SENSITIVE AND CRUCIAL ISSUE IN PRC QUESTION OF INCENTIVES FOR SUPERIOR WORK. RECENT REVERSAL OF 10-YR POLICY REJECTING SUCH REWARDS HAS PRODUCED SPATE OF IDEOLOGICAL CIRCUMLOCUTIONS TO PROVE THAT THIS MOVE NOT BETRAYAL OF MARXISTS/LENINIST/MAOIST THOUGHT. GREATEST FEAR IS THAT INCENTIVES WILL PRODUCE INCOME DISPARITIES RESULTING IN CREATION OF NEW ELITE. IDEOLOGICAL JUSTIFICATION FOR MOVE SOUGHT IN MARXIST SAW UNCLASSIFIED

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"TO EACH ACCORDING TO HIS WORK."

PHELPS (GLOBE) SAYS SEN KENNEDY FRUSTRATED IN EFFORTS TO GO BEYOND USUAL STRICTURES ON CONTACTS MADE BY GUESTS. SEN'S STAFF HOPEFUL THAT NEGOTS W/CHINESE WILL RESULT IN APPROVAL OF "MEANINGFUL" ITINERARY.

14. GENERAL

IN SURVEY OF CARTER FON POLICY, YOST (CSM) WARNS US MAY BE DRIFTING TOWARD ANOTHER ECON CONFRONTATION W/JAPAN. IF THESE OCCUR TOO OFTEN, COULD LEAVE LASTING POL SCARS. AS STRONGER POWER, SAYS US MUST NOT FORGET ABSOLUTE NECESSITY JAPANESE TO EXPORT ENOUGH TO PAY FOR RAW MATERIALS/FOODSTUFFS. SAYS ALTHO BEGINNING HAS BEEN MADE IN REACHING ACCOMMODATION W/SRV/ WITHDRAWAL GROUND FORCES FROM SK, NO PROGRESS MADE IN NORMALIZATION WITH PRC DUE TO DOMESTIC PRESSURES.

15. JAPAN

WP'S CHAPMAN SAYS FUKUDA'S CONFIDENT WORDS ON TAKING OFFICE THAT '77 TO BE "YR OF THE ECONOMY" HAVE COME BACK TO HAUNT HIM. CALLS FAILURE TO END JAPAN'S 3-YR RECESSION, GROWING TRADE SURPLUS DESPITE TRACK RECORD OF ECON SUCCESS FUKUDA'S SIGNAL FAILURE, WHICH HAS UNDERMINED POPULARITY AT HOME, CREDIBILITY W/OTHER WORLD LEADERS. IRONICALLY, CHAPMAN SAYS, FUKUDA'S GREATEST SUCCESSES IN '77 CAME IN FON AFFAIRS. CITES SUCCESSFUL VISITS TO SIX SEA NATIONS, 1ST MAJOR DIPLO INITIATIVE IN THAT AREA SINCE WWII. SAYS SHAKY GOVT, THIN PARLIAMENTARY MAJORITY COULD BE MAIN REASON FUKUDA NOT MORE FORTHCOMING IN ECON TALKS W/US. ADDS FUKUDA'S BEST HOPE MAY BE WEAKNESS, DIVISION OF OPPONENTS. CHRISTOPHER

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